

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 DOE-15 SOE-02 ACDA-12 OMB-01
TRSE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7527
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY VARIS
USNMR SHAPE BEL
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
DIA WASHDC

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BRUSSELS FOR USEEC
USCINCEUR FOR POLAD
USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, CY
SUBJECT: UPDATE ON TFSC GOVERNMENT CRISIS

REF: (A) NICOSIA 0796, (B) NICOSIA 0594

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1. TFSC "PRIMIN" KONUK, WHO RESIGNED BOTH AS PRIMIN
AND AS MEMBER OF RULING NATIONAL UNITY PARTY (NUP)
MARCH 24 (REF A), FINALLY ACCEPTED PRESIDENT RAUF
DENKTASH'S DESIGNATION TO FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT.
DECISION CAME AFTER SEVERAL DAYS OF INTENSE DISCUSSIONS,
PARTY MEETING AND ARM TWISTING BY DENKTASH AND
TURKISH AMBASSADOR ONHON. KONUK EARLIER AGREED TO

WITHDRAW HIS RESIGNATION FROM THE NUP.

2. EVENTS FOLLOWING KONUK'S RESIGNATION PROVIDED PUBLIC AIRING OF CONFLICTS WITHIN NUP (REF B) AND WITHIN DENKTASH'S OWN FAMILY. MARCH 26 ZAMAN, OWNED AND EDITED BY RAIK DENKTASH (SON OF RAUF), QUESTIONED WHETHER A PRIMIN'S LOYALTY TO A PARTY SHOULD CONTINUE ONLY AS LONG AS HE REMAINED A PARTY MEMBER, I.E., KONUK NEED NOT HAVE RESIGNED FROM NUP ALSO. ZAMAN PLEDGED TO CONTINUE ITS SUPPORT OF NUP BUT AT SAME TIME STATED IT WOULD CONTINUE TO EXERCISE "CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM." RAIK TOOK SAME LINE IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS, DENYING HE HAD BEEN PART OF A PLOT TO BRING DOWN KONUK, OFFERING TO FACE THE PARTY'S DISCIPLINARY BOARD FOR ANY "POLITICAL BLUNDERS" HE MAY HAVE COMMITTED, PROMISING TO SUPPORT KONUK SHOULD HE AGAIN BE DESIGNATED PRIMIN, BUT AT SAME TIME SAYING "WE SHALL CONTINUE TO ABIDE BY PARTY DISCIPLINE, BUT SHALL CONTINUE TO CRITICIZE." RAIK'S ACTIONS APPARENTLY BECAME TOO BLATANT FOR FATHER RAUF WHO TOLD REPORTERS MARCH 27 THAT RAIK WAS MAKING EFFORTS TO OVERCOME THE GOVERNMENT CRISIS MORE DIFFICULT. MARCH 28 ZAMAN EDITORIALIZED IN AN EVEN-HANDED MANNER THAT PROBLEMS WITHIN NUP SHOULD REMAIN A "FAMILY FIGHT." THE EDITORIAL, ALMOST ASSUREDLY WRITTEN BY RAUF, CONTRASTED "FEVERISH RAIK DENKTASH WHO IS EXTREMELY LOYAL TO THE NUP" WITH KONUK, "WHO HAS GROWN GRAY HAIR IN HIS LONG SERVICE TO THE NATIONAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CAUSE" AND URGED THE TWO TO WORK OUT THEIR DIFFERENCES.

3. MININT AND NUP SEC GEN ORHAN Z. BILGEHAN, ALSO SUSPECTED OF OPPOSING KONUK, DENIED THESE REPORTS AND SAID HE SUPPORTED KONUK "99 PERCENT." BILGEHAN SAID THERE WERE ONLY FOUR OR FIVE NUP DEPUTIES WHO MIGHT NOT SUPPORT KONUK.

4. KONUK OBTAINED A REPORTED UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FROM NUP ASSEMBLY GROUP TO REFORM THE GOVERNMENT AND TOLD REPORTERS THAT A "GREAT NUMBER" OF THE REASONS FORCING HIM TO RESIGN HAD BEEN ELIMINATED. HE IS PRESENTLY CONDUCTING CONTACTS PRIOR TO NAMING A CABINET. PRESS SPECULATION MARCH 29 IS THAT SAME CABINET WILL BE RENAMED. HOWEVER, PRES. DENKTASH TOLD EMBOFF MARCH 25 THAT HE HAD OBTAINED RESIGNATIONS OF ALL MINISTERS SO THAT KONUK WOULD HAVE OPPORTUNITY OF REMOVING DISSENTERS, SUBJECT TO DENKTASH'S CONCURRENCE, OF COURSE.

5. COMMENT. TEMPORARY RESOLUTION OF "GOVERNMENT CRISIS," HAS NOT SOLVED LONG TERM PROBLEMS. KONUK AND HIS NEW CABINET WILL CONTINUE TO FACE THE ALMOST INSURMOUNTABLE

ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND LIMITED GOVERNMENT OPTIONS WHICH
LED TO THE PROTESTS BRINGING ABOUT HIS RESIGNATION.
CONSEQUENTLY, KONUK WILL CONTINUE TO FACE DIFFERENCES
OF OPINION AND OPPOSITION FORM WITHIN HIS PARTY.
END COMMENT.
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